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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 25 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my previous letters on the same subject, I have the honour to convey to you hereunder a list of the violations that were committed by Israel against Lebanon in the period from 17 to 24 June 2001. Lebanon regards these incidents as an extension of Israel's aggression against its people and territory.

17 June 2001

At 0600 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 2000 and 2035 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2045 and 2100 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched three illumination flares over the surrounding area.

18 June 2001

Between 1125 and 1155 hours Israeli warplanes overflew all parts of Lebanon at very high altitudes, breaking the sound barrier.

Between 2055 and 2250 hours there were six unexplained explosions in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2115 and 2210 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Between 2320 and 2350 hours Israeli enemy forces at one of the outposts in the Ayn al-Tinah area in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired several shells of miscellaneous calibre that impacted in the farmlands area and in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

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19 June 2001

Between 0100 and 0345 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched two illumination flares over the surrounding area.

Between 0600 and 0615 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Ruwaysat al-Summaqah and Ruwaysat al-Alam outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at surrounding areas.

Between 1100 and 1500 hours Israeli enemy forces were engaged in maintenance work on the barbed-wire strip around Birkat al-Naqqar in the occupied Shab`a farmlands. They were supported by a patrol consisting of two HMMWV ("Hummer") vehicles, a tank and 12 personnel.

Between 2315 and 2515 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah fired several bursts of medium-machine-gun and light-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

20 June 2001

Between 1200 and 1800 hours an Israeli bulldozer was engaged in excavation work along the Mazra`at Fashkul road in the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

At 2315 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare and directed several bursts of medium-weapons fire at surrounding areas.

21 June 2001

Between 1400 and 1830 hours Israeli enemy forces at the Fatimah Gate were engaged in repairing the barbed-wire strip.

At 2250 hours Israeli forces at an outpost in the occupied Shab`a farmlands fired several 120-mm mortar rounds at the Birkat al-Naqqar vicinity in the farmlands area.

22 June 2001

Between 1105 and 1210 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

During the day it was noticed that teams of workers were engaged in constructing dwellings in the occupied Lebanese section.

23 June 2001

Between 0030 and 0035 hours Israeli forces at one of the outposts in the occupied Shab`a farmlands launched an illumination flare and fired two 120-mm mortar rounds that impacted in the vicinity of the Radar hill outpost in the same area.

Between 1035 and 1145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South, the Bekaa, the North and Mount Lebanon at various altitudes, breaking the sound barrier. They were engaged by Resistance anti-aircraft artillery in outlying areas of Tiri and Ayn Ibl.

At 1930 hours Israeli forces at the Radar hill outpost in the occupied Shab'a farmlands directed a number of bursts of medium-machine-gun fire at the surrounding area.

At 2110 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched an illumination flare over the surrounding area.

24 June 2001

Between 1100 and 1205 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Bekaa, the Shuf and the South at various altitudes.

At intervals between 1905 and 2240 hours two Israeli helicopters flew over the occupied Shab'a farmlands.

At 2130 hours an Israeli gunboat in the territorial waters of occupied Palestine off Ra's al-Naqurah launched two illumination flares over the surrounding area.

At 2320 hours Israeli forces at one of the outposts in the occupied Shab'a farmlands fired an unidentified projectile of unknown calibre that impacted in the farmlands area.

Like the previous Israeli violations of which it represents a continuation, this latest series is in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and poses a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative